Allocation of funds for Health and Family Welfare Facilities in Rural and Urban Areas

2257. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural areas have been treated at par with the urban areas in regard to allocation of funds for health and family welfare facilities during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps that are being taken to remove this imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Central investments in the national disease control programmes and family welfare programmes have a strong focus on rural areas. The health infrastructure comprising secondary/tertiary level hospitals serves as referral units for primary level rural health infrastructure comprising Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres established in rural areas.

Efforts to bring down birth rate

2258. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children borne every year to a number of million couples in the reproductive age group 15—44 years;

(b) whether it is a fact that National Family Health Survey was conducted by Government recently; if so, what are the findings thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that couples in all parts of the country want less children than the three to four that they have; if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are planning new strategies to bring down the birth rate from the current 28 (per 1000 population) to 20 in the next 10 to 15 years; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) According to the Registrar General of India, in 1992, there were 28.2 million live births and 147.6 million married women in the reproductive age groups (15—49 years).

(b) Yes, Sir. Some findings of the survey are given at the annexed statement (*See* below).

(c) Based on the survey reports available for Uttar Pradesh, 11.4% of the couples with 3 living children and 38.0% of the couples with 4 living children desired to have less number of children.

(d) The National Health Policy (1983) aims to bring down birth rate to a level of 21 (per 1000 population) by 2000 AD, but according to the VIII Plan document, this level could be achieved by 2011—16.

Statement

(1) The Total Fertility Rate in the country has dropped to 3.4.

(2) The knowledge of at least one family planning method is 96%. But only 40.6% of the currently married are using any method of contraception.

(3) The acceptance of family planning increases with literacy and education.

(4) Most of the contraceptive requirements are supplied by the public sector Government programme (79%).

(5) The Infant Mortality Rate was 79 per thousand live births for the period 1988—92. This corresponds to the SRS estimates.

Persons suffering from AIDS and Tuberculosis

2259. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steady rise in the Tuberculosis cases in the country and that in majority of the cases reported, persons affected with AIDS were detected;

(b) if so, what, according to the assessment made by Government is the percentage of rise in the tuberculosis cases in the country during the last one year and the estimated number of cases in which the patients were also suffering from AIDS; and

(c) what are the factors identified for the rise of tuberculosis cases and the measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There are no significant changes in the incidence level of T.B. Of the 905 AIDS cases reported till November, 1994, 52.8% are reported to have been suffering from T.B.

(c) Mal-nutrition, poverty, illiteracy and over-crowding are some of the spread of disease. Though, there has been no